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THE DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

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MIDDLE-CLASS WOES.

A citizen who calls himself a member of that debatable institution, the "American middle class", is full of indignation as he considers its wrongs and misfortunes. It is the most numerous class in the country, he says, and in many respects the most important. Yet it has long been, and still is, placed "between the upper and nether millstone" of capital and labor.

It is less fortunate than labor. For labor, being organized, can deal with capital on equal terms, and even dictate to it; whereas, the middle class in its relations with capital is unorganized and helpless, and in its relations with labor it is disregarded and tyrannized over.

"The middle-class man is merely one of a very numerous and unorganized and unorganizable class, a cog in the industrial or economic machine, or scarcely that, as even the smallest cog in a machine that cannot be misplaced without injury to the running of the whole machine, whereas, the man of the middle class can drop out or be dropped out without the slightest jar to the great machine, in which, nevertheless, he plays a needed and important part. To him the law of supply and demand applies in all its rigor and stringency. He may be discharged preemptorily with or without reason as may suit his employer, and he has no redress, while the lowest and most rudimentary member of the labor class may be kept in his place by his union on peril of a strike.

"And while the middle class man has no set scale of wages, no number of hours he must work, the lowest member of the labor class has his scale and works only a certain and constantly decreasing number of hours at usually an increasing wage. And even unskilled labor during the past four or five years has made wages that place it financially far above the average of the middle class, whose wage has known no increase but whose living expenses have mounted higher and higher each year."

These are, in the main, real grievances, as every intelligent American, whatever his "class," must admit. But the complainer ignores one very important fact which makes the situation of the American middle-class member immensely better than that of his brethren in European countries. It is the fact that all classes in this new country are still fluid, and that his is the most fluid of all.

Generally speaking, any member of it may move down into the laboring class or up into the capital class—according to his will or ability.

The much-envied capital class has no walls around it—men from the middle class, and also from the laboring class, are breaking into it all the time. In fact, the

RIPPLING RHYMES

By Walt Mason

THE WIND.

I'm often weary of the wind; I sometimes think it should be tinned (the British word for "canned"); it's hard to seem serene and gay with all your whiskers blown away, by winds resistless fanned. I sometimes sit beneath a tree, and take a book to comfort me, and count on happy hours; I'll doze and read, and read and doze, inhale the fragrance of the rose, and other moral flowers. And then there comes a roaring wind, shot from some cavern of the Ind, which blows me from my chair; my treasured volume disappears, and dust is blown into my ears, and sandbars in my hair. Sometimes I take off hat and shoes, and lay me down to have a snooze, as peaceful as a clam; and then a wind sweeps through the shack, and all the timbers groan and crack, and doors begin to slam. Last eve I set out cabbage plants; a wholesome task like this enchants the sane and normal guy; and in the forenoon of this day the wind blew all those plants away; I wept to see them fly. I hear the ladies crying, "Rats!" when they're deprived of costly hats by wayward, wanton blast; and men forget good form and swear when lids are soaring everywhere, and wigs are flying past.

great majority of American "capitalists" were once employed by other capitalists.

Moreover, to a rapidly increasing extent "capital" is extending beyond any possible class boundaries. Every salaried man or wage-earner who buys corporation stock or government bonds thereby makes himself a capitalist whose savings pay for the employment of other men.

BUSINESS WITH MEXICO.

Mexico may not recognize the Monroe Doctrine, but if the proposed program of mutual business excursions goes on as planned, the chances are that before long Mexico may remember that she has seen our face before.

Just by way of aside, that is one thing which makes it hard for Mexicans and some other people to understand Americans. We wear our face before, and usually look where we are going, go when we are looking and behave in a straight-forward manner generally disconcerting to the craftier Latin.

But to resume—fifty members of the Chamber of Commerce of San Antonio, Texas, have just returned from a visit as far south as Mexico City. They were received everywhere into the utmost courtesy and saw neither brigand nor villain.

They were entertained by the federation of the Chambers of Commerce of Mexico, saw endless interesting and beautiful things and came back convinced that business can soon go on with Mexico in a satisfactory manner.

Dallas and Chicago have already been in touch with Mexican business men, and an excursion by the New York Chamber is now under discussion.

President Haile of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce reports that industries are being resumed generally and that the governors of the various Mexican states through which they passed were men of education, ability and progressive character.

The chances are that if the business men in Mexico and the United States really get together, those who hope to create a political chasm will have very little success.

The Portland department stores are making special efforts to catch the trade of the people living in the country and smaller towns, paying railroad fare as an inducement for people to trade in Portland. This kind of competition from the over-grown city department stores and the mail order house is of course the hardest competition the merchant of the smaller town, in any line, has to contend with, and he has but one weapon with which to combat it. The Oregon Retailers' Journal tells him to advertise in his local paper and back up the publisher to fight for the principle of trading at home, which is excellent advice. As a matter of fact every resident of any community should trade at home as much as possible, although at times he may find it necessary or advisable to break the rule, but this should be the exception. The retail dealer may best influence him to do this by keeping the lines of goods he carries before the public, because often one does not stop to think of the far-reaching effect of the policy of sending their money out of the country.

A St. Paul man who died the other day at the age of 104 explained his advanced age by saying that when a young man he sold his soul to the devil, the consideration being that he should live 100 years. That being the case, the devil evidently respects his agreements better than some church members we know. He even threw four years in for good measure—or maybe his quarters are so crowded of late years he lacked accommodations for the old man.

The Oregonian seems to object to Wm. H. Taft as a republican party leader because so many democrats like him. But who could help liking Big Bill Taft, one of the plainest, cleanest and staunchest Americans that ever lived!

It used to be said that women would never learn the political game, but already we find them rivaling men as politicians. Three have just been indicted for election frauds in Chicago.

The soda-fountain people needn't kick so at the war tax. Let them look at what the saloons are up against, and feel grateful.

It is a pretty loyal citizen who has read that peace treaty clear through.

THE PROMOTER'S WIFE

BY JANE PHELPS

FREDERICK REFUSES TO CONSIDER A BUSINESS PROPOSITION.

I had not asked Neil where he had spent the evening the night he came in so mellowed himself from the effects of what he had been drinking. I thought I would wait until he was entirely himself, and in good humor. I was terribly afraid he had been at Blanche Oron's home, when he was out now I invariably accused him in my mind of being with her. Occasionally he would drop something which showed me I was mistaken, but most of the time he was very close-mouthed as to where he spent his time; even more so than usual since his aunt came.

Neil knew she would disapprove of his actions. He had known that father and mother had worried over his extravagance, and they really were far less worldly than his aunt in many ways. She accepted the extravagance, our mode of living without question. That a nephew of hers could be dishonest she never would have believed. And she would have been shocked to know he visited another woman without me, and would have argued with him had she known it.

"I do hope we shall Neil all to ourselves," I remarked to aunt as we drove down town. "So often he has people he knows lunch with him."

"We mustn't be selfish dear Bab. A big business man like Neil often has to

HOW RHEUMATISM BEGINS

The excruciating agonies of rheumatism are usually the result of failure of the kidneys to expel poisons from the system. If the irritation of these uric acid crystals is allowed to continue, incurable bladder or kidney disease may result. Attend to it at once. Don't resort to temporary relief. The sick kidneys must be restored to health by the use of some sterling remedy which will prevent a return of the disease.

Get some GOLD MEDAL Haverlem Oil Capsules immediately. They have brought back the joys of life to countless thousands of sufferers from rheumatism, lame back, lumbago, sciatica, gall stones, gravel and other afflictions of the kidneys, liver, stomach, bladder and allied organs.

They will attack the poisons at once, clear out the kidneys and urinary tract and the soothing healing oils and herbs will restore the inflamed tissues and organs to normal health.

All others are imitations. Ask for GOLD MEDAL and be sure the name GOLD MEDAL is on the box. Three sizes, at all good druggists.

do many things on account of that last one.

"I guess I know that!" I answered rather pettishly. "I have had to learn that lesson perfectly. I shall be so glad when he feels he has made enough so he won't have to work so hard, and can take more time at home with me. What he hardly sees Roberts now a-days, just a few minutes in the morning, and occasionally on Sunday. The boy will certainly feel acquainted with him as he grows up unless Neil manages to give him more of his time." I had not meant to complain of Neil in any way, but when I started to talk of his absence from home I invariably said more than I intended.

"A man has to judge what is best for him to do in his business," aunt replied in a reproving manner, then changed the subject by asking about the different buildings was passed, etc.

Neil was waiting for us, and to my surprise so was Mr. Frederick. I was so surprised and pleased to see him that I greeted him very cordially. I noticed aunt looked very surprised. I flushed as I recalled that I had said I hoped there would be no one with Neil; then flushed still more as I saw her look at me.

"My aunt, Mrs. Carter, Mr. Frederick. He has consented to lunch with us," Neil said in his usual off-hand manner. Then went right on talking to Mr. Frederick as we trailed after them into the dining room.

"The company is to be incorporated for five million," he said in eager tones. "It will be the biggest thing of its kind going. We are sure of several big wells and that sells the remainder of the prospect you know. And—"

"But Forbes, you haven't answered my question yet," Mr. Frederick interrupted. "Who are associated with you in this deal?"

Just then the head waiter saw us and led us to a table. For a few moments the talk was general, as Neil ordered the luncheon. Aunt asked Frederick some questions. Evidently my pleasure at seeing him and aroused some sort of suspicion in her mind. But he answered them all so frankly, was so bluntly himself that she soon "thawed out" as Neil would have said, and was chatting pleasantly with him.

The luncheon ordered, Neil at once turned to Mr. Frederick and began to talk of the wonderful profits he expected to make from the big oil deal which he was promoting.

"You haven't answered my question Forbes, who are the men associated with you? I never touch a thing unless I know who's running it. If the men are on the square, fair honest fellows, the deal is apt to be on the square also. But if crooks are behind it, I wouldn't give the snap of my finger for any proposition you can lay before me."

"Well Scott is one of them—" I had noticed that Neil flushed as Frederick talked, flushed and looked a bit embarrassed.

"Cannon and Teardo—and myself—" The waiter just then brought our luncheon. As he laid the plates I heard Frederick say:

"You'll have to count me out Forbes, I won't go into anything with those fellows."

MEHAMA NEWS NOTES.

(Capital Journal Special Service.)

Mehama, Or., May 13.—Ed Mettler of Mehama, while working at Cramer's camp above Mill City, got painfully hurt Saturday. The man was being pulled up the hill on boards hauled by the dinky engine, when he fell off and was run over by the contrivance. His back and legs were badly bruised and lacerated and he is under the doctor's care.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Taylor and son returned to Mackay Sunday to visit relatives.

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Grape-Nuts

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CITY NEWS

The Hunt Bros. company is now the Hunt Bros. Packing company. In transferring the real estate of the company to the newly organized company, it was necessary to put on the deed of transfer \$400 in revenue stamps, indicating that the property of the company in the city is valued at \$40,000.

J. J. Collins, deputy internal revenue collector for Marion, Yamhill and Clackamas counties, now makes his headquarters in Salem in the post office building. His business just at present is in collecting returns made for the income tax, especially where parties sought no assistance but just figured out by themselves the amount that was due the government at the rate of 6 per cent. It seems that many in making out their income statement made the mistake of putting in the purchases of machinery and repairs to buildings as expense of doing business, while they should have come under the head of permanent improvements. Some returns were received where the creation of a garage was placed under the head of expense instead of improvements. It is to correct these mistakes that Mr. Collins is writing several parties and asking a conference.

Sergeant Arthur J. Reinhart, who is now "over there," mailed to the Price Shoe store a pair of shoes, which he writes are quite the thing in that part of Germany where he happens to be located at present. They are of the regulation Holland wooden shoes, roughly whittled out, but of the most approved Walker form with the real foot form. He writes that he happens to have his headquarters in a building where several thousand of these wooden shoes were stored and that he feels he could easily supply the market in this part of the world.

As it was the price of hops for this year established at 30 cents a pound. There was filed for record today contracts from Henry Beck of Astoria to Strauss & Co., London, England, contracts for 5000 pounds of hops for this year at 30 cents, 5000 pounds of the 1920 crop at 25 cents and 5000 pounds of the 1921 crop at 25 cents a pound.

Rev. Jacob Stocker, pastor of Seventh street Evangelical church, who held the pastorate of the local church for the last two years, has been transferred to the Portland Clay street church, one of the oldest established churches of the Evangelical association of the Oregon conference. Rev. Stocker, who is a graduate of Willamette university and who has made Salem his home for many years, and who has made many friends here, regrets his removal but will obey a call to greater responsibility. Mr. Stocker will preach his farewell sermon next Sunday morning at the local church and at Portland in the afternoon. Rev. W. Launer, former pastor at Canby, will be his successor, and will preach his first sermon at the local church Sunday, May 25th. Rev. Launer will have a son to attend Willamette university.

At the meeting held today noon at the Mason hotel to bring together the commercial and community club interests of the county, a fair representation was present. However, in order to secure a more representative attendance from delegates throughout the county, it was decided that the next meeting should be held in Salem Thursday, June 3. At this meeting a constitution and by-laws will be definitely adopted. A committee was appointed to draw up the necessary constitution. John Steinhilber of Woodburn was elected temporary chairman and will serve until a permanent chairman is elected at the June 5 meeting.

Representatives of the agricultural department, in conjunction with the Oregon Agricultural college, are making experimental spray demonstrations in the orchards near this city with a view to determining the best methods of combating certain pests. The results of these experiments will be awaited with interest.

Mr. and Mrs. Shearer of Goldendale, Wash., arrived Saturday afternoon for a visit with their daughter, Mrs. Ed Mettler. The trip was made in their new Dodge.

Mrs. John Parsons left for Portland Monday morning. She will call Helvets for her brother and daughter to come from Switzerland. War conditions have prevented her sending for them heretofore. She has not seen her daughter for seven years.

Miss Clara Doeller, the efficient teacher of the Okadale school, came back from Sublimity Sunday after a week-end visit with home folks.

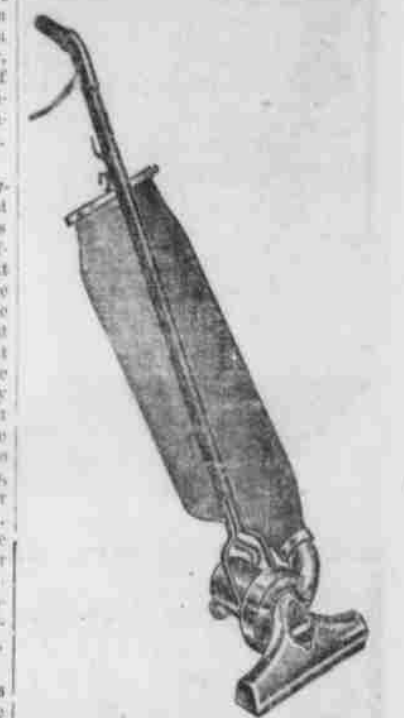
Mrs. H. B. Early left Monday for Portland with her son to consult a specialist regarding her son who underwent two operations at Roseburg, Or., a few weeks ago.

John Zimmerman and wife and daughter, Edna, returned from Albany on Sunday's train.

Miss June Kubin came up from Corvallis Friday and returned yesterday to finish the school year. She will graduate in home economics in June. Miss Kubin is a talented young lady and she is well worthy of the honors often to be bestowed upon her.

Mr. and Mrs. Kubin received a telegram recently of the safe arrival from overseas of their son, Sergeant Otto Kubin. He arrived in New York last Monday. Sergeant Kubin was a member of the aviation corps and has seen service for over two years going to France in August, 1917. He has had many thrilling adventures and his home-folks anxiously await his home-coming.

The "BEE" Vacuum Cleaner

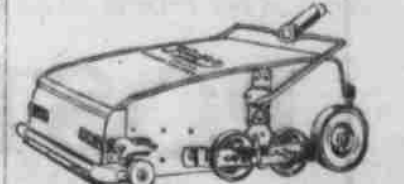


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- It Conserves Woman's Labor.
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- It will do the work or your money refunded.

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